

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), SOPN
SUBJECT: BERGER ARTICLE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A MARILYN BERGER ARTICLE THAT
APPEARED IN THE POST TODAY ON THE REORGANIZATION:

STRUCTURAL CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR STATE.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER FRIDAY ANNOUNCED
PLANS TO CENTRALIZE CONTROL OVER STATE DEPARTMENT ALLOCA-
TION OF PERSONNEL AND MONEY IN AN EFFORT TO ENHANCE THE
DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO MEET THE NEW PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN
POLICY.

IN A MOVE HAILED BY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN
SEEKING REFORM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE,
KISSINGER SAID HE IS ESTABLISHING A PRIORITIES POLICY
GROUP UNDER TOP-LEVEL CONTROL -- THEREBY REMOVING POWER
FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND THE REGIONAL BUREAUS.

WHAT THIS MEANS, A SENIOR OFFICIAL EXPLAINED, IS THAT THE
DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SHIFT ITS RESOURCES MORE
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QUICKLY TO FACE NEW PROBLEMS AND HELP ELIMINATE PROMOTION
BY FAVORITISM GROWING OUT OF "WHO YOU KNOW" RATHER THAN
"WHAT YOU CAN DO."

KISSINGER ANNOUNCED THE PLAN AT THE SWEARING IN OF THE 119TH FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER CLASS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RECEPTION ROOM.

SAID ONE OFFICIAL: "IT'S NO SECRET THAT WE'VE BEEN ORGANIZED TO FIGHT 'LAST YEAR'S WAR.' RESOURCE ALLOCATION ALWAYS FOLLOWS LAST YEAR'S POLICY. THIS IS A PLAN TO SHIFT RESOURCES MORE QUICKLY. FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW BILATERAL COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED WITH A COUNTRY LIKE SAUDI ARABIA. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO SHIFT MEN AND MONEY QUICKLY TO GET IT OPERATING EFFECTIVELY."

"OVER THE YEARS," KISSINGER SAID, AND ESPECIALLY OVER THE PAST DECADE, "OUR POLICY PRIORITIES HAVE UNDERGONE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE. YET OUR RESOURCES -- PEOPLE AND MONEY -- HAVE, BECAUSE OF INSTITUTIONAL INFLEXIBILITY, REMAINED FOCUSED ON THE FAMILIAR PROBLEMS OF THE PAST."

THE NEW PRIORITIES POLICY GROUP -- TO BE HEADED BY THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER, IS TO HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN FORMULATING THE ANNUAL BUDGET, REVIEWING THE ALLOCATION OF PERSONNEL AND EXAMINING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN WASHINGTON AND OVERSEAS.

THIS WILL MEAN THAT THE VARIOUS BUREAUS WILL HAVE LESS CONTROL OVER THEIR FUNDS.

KISSINGER ALSO OUTLINED CHANGES IN RECRUITMENT, TO PERMIT INCOMING OFFICERS GREATER FLEXIBILITY WITHOUT HAVING TO CHOOSE A SPECIALITY FROM THE START.

PROVISION ALSO IS BEING MADE, HE SAID, FOR RECRUITING OUTSIDE PROFESSIONALS AND FOR IMPROVING THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORD AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER BY HIRING MORE WOMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MINORITY GROUPS. END
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TEXT INGERSOLL

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